CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating or preventing decreased nitric oxide formation resulting from sub-optimal urea cycle function in a subject, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a nitric oxide precursor, whereby treatment or prevention of decreased nitric oxide formation resulting from sub-optimal urea cycle function is accomplished.
2. The method of claim 1 whererin the administering is intravenously or orally.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-optimal urea cycle function further comprises decreased urea cycle intermediate production.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is suffering from a disorder associated with decreased urea cycle intermediate production or wherein the subject is exposed or about to be exposed to an environmental stimulus associated with decreased urea cycle intermediate production.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, cirrhosis, pulmonary hypertension, necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, ethnic specific endothelial dysfunction, erectile dysfunction, bone marrow transplant toxicity in a subject undergoing bone marrow transplant, sepsis, asthma, and combinations thereof.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the environmental stimulus is selected from the group consisting of chemotherapy, cardiac surgery, increased oxidative stress, bone marrow transplant, septic shock, acute asthma attack, hypoxia, hepatotoxin exposure and combinations thereof.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the nitric oxide precursor is selected from the group consisting of citrulline, arginine and combinations thereof.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the nitric oxide precursor is administered in a dose ranging from about 100 mg to about 30,000 mg.